

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190363

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190363

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH SEISMIC VESSEL: DISCUSSIONS WITH GREEKS  
AND TURKS

REF: (A) ATHENS 7692 (B) ANKARA 5845 (C) STATE 180859(NOTA  
(D) STATE 180060

1. FOR KUBISCH: YOU SHOULD AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY  
TELL CARAMANLIS THAT I FULLY ENDORSE THE POINTS YOU MADE TO  
HIM EMPHASIZING OUR EXPECTATION THAT GREECE WILL DEAL WITH  
THE SISMIC ISSUE WITH THE UTMOST RESTRAINT. YOU SHOULD IN-  
DICATE BOTH MY OWN DIRECT AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN THIS  
PROBLEM AND OUR APPRECIATION OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT IT  
PRESENTS TO CARAMANLIS. AT THE SAME TIME YOU SHOULD EMPHA-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 190363

SIZE THAT THE US DOES NOT BELIEVE THE MERE SAILING OF THE

SISMIK INTO NON-TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE AEGEAN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A PROVOCATION AGAINST GREECE. HE SHOULD KNOW THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO URGE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE EXERCISE OF MODERATION ON BOTH SIDES AND THAT WE BELIEVE IT IS IN THE URGENT INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RESUME THE INTERRUPTED GREEK-TURKISH BILATERAL DIALOGUE REGARDING THE SISMIK'S OPERATIONS ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE APPRECIATED BEING INFORMED AND TO WHICH WE ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE.

2. AS FOR THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, YOU HAVE ALREADY USEFULLY INDICATED INFORMALLY OUR OWN RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE GREEK POSITION. FOR THE PRESENT YOU SHOULD AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO ANY FURTHER DETAILED DISCUSSION BUT AT THE SAME TIME YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS EXACTLY BECAUSE OF THE LEGAL AMBIGUITIES SURROUNDING SUCH AN ISSUE THAT WE BELIEVE IT SO IMPORTANT THAT THE PARTIES CONCERNED REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND A WAY TO DEAL WITH THE IMMEDIATE SISMIK ISSUE AND AGREE ON A PROCESS FOR RESOLVING THE BROADER ISSUES INVOLVED.

3. FOR MACOMBER: YOU SHOULD SIMILARLY APPROACH THE GOT AT THE LEVEL YOU DEEM MOST APPROPRIATE, REITERATING ON MY BEHALF THE POSITION YOU HAVE ALREADY TAKEN WITH THE GOT ON THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT ON ITS PART. YOU SHOULD INDICATE OUR APPRECIATION THAT THE GOT HAS KEPT US INFORMED OF ITS EFFORTS TO WORK OUT AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GREEKS ON THE SISMIK. WHILE IT IS OBVIOUSLY INCUMBENT ON BOTH PARTIES TO DEMONSTRATE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IF THESE TALKS ARE TO BE RESUMED AND TO SUCCEED, YOU SHOULD INDICATE OUR HOPE AND EXPECTATION AS A FRIEND OF TURKEY, THAT AS THE LARGER STATE AND HAVING TAKEN THE INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO THE SAILING OF THE SISMIK, TURKEY MAKE WHATEVER FIRST MOVES ARE NECESSARY TO GET THESE TALKS RESUMED. YOU MAY INFORM THE TURKS THAT I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH ECEVIT TO SPEAK IN A SIMILAR VEIN TO HIM OF OUR CONFIDENCE THAT OUR TURKISH FRIENDS WILL DEVOTE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO WORK OUT AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE SISMIK.

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PAGE 03     STATE 190363

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